

The District 3 Slate

January 2005

County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price

"...as we work to make San Diego County a place known for its commitment to well-run government..."



County Supervisor
Pam Slater-Price

It's been quite a while since this county has seen so much rain. What a way to begin a year! Now that our skies are clear again, I want to take a moment to personally thank those who spent countless days wet and cold so that we can be safe and warm. Firefighters, life-guards and sheriff's deputies risked their lives for us. I thank them. I also thank the county crews who were out clearing storm drains and keeping mud at bay. I thank the dispatchers for keeping their patience.

Until you have spent hours in driving rain, working to save lives or protect property, you cannot truly understand what these dedicated people endure. Thanks again!

Pam

New Year Brings With It New Responsibilities As Board Chair

The new year will be busy for me as the new chairwoman of the Board of Supervisors. The yearlong appointment was approved by the board at its initial meeting in January.

As part of the new year, the board made changes to its various committee assignments. I was selected to serve on more than 30 committees, including membership on the board of directors and the executive committee of the San Diego Association of Governments. I also chair the county's First Five Commission.

These leadership posts give me the opportunity to set priorities for the board and continue to work hard for my district. I look forward to leading my peers as we work to make San Diego County a place known for its commitment to well-run

government, smart growth, environmental stewardship, economic development and a sunny disposition.

As chair of the Board of Supervisors, I will be giving the annual State of the County address at 6 p.m. Feb. 3 at the La Jolla Playhouse's newly built Potiker Theatre on the UCSD campus. This will be my first opportunity to outline my goals for the year.

The following are some of the committees on which I will be serving this year:

- **Board of Supervisors** - Clean Water Subcommittee, Contract City Subcommittee, I-15 Riverside/San Diego, Multiple Habit Conservation Program, Multiple Species Conservation Program Review and Summit on Aging.

- **California State Association of Counties** - California State Association of Counties (alternate) and Economic Development Policy Committee.

- **San Diego Association of Gov-**

ernments - Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Public Safety Committee, Preservation Committee, Transportation Committee (alternate), Regional Planning Committee (alternate), High Speed Rail Task Force (alternate), Borders Committee (alternate) and Regional Planning Committee (alternate).

- **Other committees** - First 5 Commission (chairwoman), Unified San Diego County Disaster Council (chairwoman), Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve Task Force, Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force, San Diego Regional Technology Alliance and San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority.

Also, San Diego County Mental Health Board, San Diego Regional Auto Theft Task Force, Southern California Hazardous Waste Management Board, San Diego County Safe Kids Coalition, North San Diego County Transit Development Board (alternate), San Diego Workforce Partnership (alternate) and San Diego County Water Authority (ex-officio member).

Grants Fund Community Projects in Tierrasanta, North County

Reinvesting in our communities improves the quality-of-life of all San Diegans. The following organizations were awarded grants through the Third District Community Projects budget:

- Tierrasanta Community Council, \$5,000 for the replacement of about 15 park benches in Mission Trails Regional Park that were damaged or destroyed during the 2003 wildfires.

- Cardiff Botanical Society, \$5,000 to assist with the purchase of a surf sculpture.

- Community Resource Center (Encinitas), \$5,000 for its Holiday Gift Basket program.

- North County Health Services, \$2,000 to help purchase holiday gifts and clothing for needy North County families.

- St. Clare's Home, \$10,000 to assist with the

purchase of supplies for its emergency shelter and transitional homes.

- San Diego Nutrition Council, \$2,000 to assist with the county effort to fight childhood obesity. These funds will be used for a "School Food Summit" in March.

- Epilepsy Foundation of San Diego, \$30,000 for its annual Gingerbread City extravaganza.

- First Night Escondido, \$5,000 for a Battle of the Bands competition during the New Year's Eve "Celebration of the Arts."

- San Diego Natural History Museum, \$5,000 for its fifth annual "Fiesta Binacional Dos Aguilas."

- San Diego Dance Alliance, \$3,000 for the "Nations of San Diego International Dance Festival."

Shelters Now Offer Online Pet Rescue

Returning home to learn that your four-legged friend is missing is traumatic. To reduce this stress, the County of San Diego is using technology to help pet owners relocate their missing animals.

The Department of Animal Services has a new searchable website that lists lost animals returned to the three shelters. The site allows an owner to search for their missing pet by type of animal, gender and time the animal was reported missing. In most cases, a digital photograph is also posted.

One of the first people to be reunited with their pet by using this website is Carolyn Ryba, whose mixed-Lab Kiwi was brought to the Central Shelter on Gaines Street. Kiwi was missing for four days.

This website is another example of the county's commitment to incorporating technology to improve the quality and speed of service it provides to the people of San Diego County. Obtaining information online allows people to access the data they need at their convenience.

The Department of Animal Services (renamed last year on my recommendation to better reflect the services it provides) also has online information on rabies vaccinations, dog licensing, spay or neuter surgery, pet care, behavioral tips, and laws pertaining to animals and pets.

The site also includes a section on frequently asked questions and opportunities for volunteers. The website is at www.sddac.com.



Humane Society Leader Leads FOCUS Meeting

For the past decade Wayne Pacelle has been at the forefront of the effort to improve the care of lost, discarded and abandoned animals.

San Diego animal activists will not want to miss the president and chief executive officer of the Humane Society of the United States when he is delivers the keynote address at the annual meeting of Friends of County Animal Shelters.

Pacelle's topic is "New And Exciting Developments In Animal Welfare - A View From Washington."

The breakfast meeting be-

gins at 9:15 a.m. Feb. 12 at the La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club, 2000 Spindrift Drive. Tickets are \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Your check holds your reservation. It should be mailed no later than Feb. 3 to: FOCUS, PO Box 8375, La Jolla, CA 92038. Additional information can be obtained by calling (858) 455-5046.

The meeting will also recognize the contributions of retiring board members Ro Cenker, Bernice Friedman and Hugh Gordon. It also marks the debut of the new executive director, David Ish.

Flu Season Is Still Here: So Is Opportunity To Be Inoculated!

Overconfidence can be dangerous to your health. Thanks to people heeding the national health advisory, there are now enough doses of vaccine to offer innovations to anyone who desires a flu shot. Residents can call the county's flu hotline at (866) 358-2966 to learn when a clinic will be held in their neighborhood.

At last count, the county had more than 3,700 doses of adult vaccine and more than, 4,100 doses of child doses earmarked for public clinics.

North County Health Services, which operates nine clinics, is accepting appointments by calling (760) 736-6700.

Additional information can be learned at the county Health and Human Services Agency website at www.sdchip.org.

Recycling Plan Targets Mixed Waste

Improving San Diego County's recycling rate is an ongoing team effort that unites county staff, the private sector and solid-waste collectors in the goal of exceeding the state mandate of a 50 percent diversion rate. This region is moving closer to this goal through the funding of mixed construction and demolition recycling facilities.

One of the targeted sources of waste reduction is construction waste for which there is a demand on the secondary market. These products are wood, concrete, asphalt, drywall, metals and other materials. Currently, the unincorporated



regions lack mixed-waste recycling centers. The county, using funds from a state grant, is building the infrastructure that will reduce the demand for landfill space and help the private sector by lowering disposal costs. Under an agreement reached with industry input, for every \$100,000 earmarked by the county, developers will contribute \$200,000 that will be used to acquire the equipment and expertise needed to operate these specialized recycling facilities. Prospective locations are being researched based on their proximity, convenience and other factors. Expect to see the first operation to come online later this year.

Recycling is part of our daily lives. When opportunities present themselves to reduce the wastestream, it is foolish not to give them immediate consideration.

AROUND THE THIRD COUNTY

ESCONDIDO

Waste-collection Facility Agreement Reached

Residents of the unincorporated regions of North County will be able to recycle their household hazardous waste in Escondido based on an agreement reached between the county and Clean Harbors, operator of the Escondido Permanent Waste-Collection Facility.

ENCINITAS

City Makes Agreement On Coastal Sage Scrub Loss

An agreement between the County of San Diego and the City of Encinitas on the Wright property-Latigo Row Project will allow development of the site while mitigating the loss of coastal sage scrub.

The city is paying the county \$49,500 to offset the loss of 1.65 acres of coastal sage, an endangered species. The loss and subsequent mitigation is allowed under county Policy I-122. The funds will be used by the county to purchase additional open space that encourages species preservation.

CARMEL VALLEY

Interchange Project Gains \$1.5 Million In Federal Funds

As part of federal transportation appropriations valued at \$398 million, north San Diego County this year will receive \$60 million for freeway and road improvements. The funding package includes \$1.5 million for the interchange of Interstate 5 at Sorrento Valley/Genesee Road.

Other projects funded include \$650,000 for a parking structure in Solana Beach, \$3 million to improve SR 56, and \$500,000 for a connector linking Interstate 5 with State Route 78.



War On Childhood Obesity Gains Key Supporter

I cannot say it enough: Childhood obesity is at epidemic levels. The County of San Diego, at my urging along with Supervisor Ron Roberts, is studying ways to encourage children to enjoy an active lifestyle based on sound nutritional habits.

Joining this effort is a well-known action hero-turned politician - Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger! The governor has proposed the \$6 million California Obesity Initiative

to battle this crisis in schools, work places and communities.

State health officials estimate that one-third of all children, and half of all adults in California are overweight. In just one decade, Californians gained, on average, 10.7 pounds!

The governor wants the state Department of Health Services to better promote exercise and healthy lifestyle changes.

Chess Championships Call SD Its Home



Supervisor Pam Slater-Price (above) is flanked by Alan Ziter (left) of the NTC Foundation and Jesse Knight (right), a trustee of the NTC Foundation and president of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. The supervisor issued a proclamation recognizing the foundation's efforts to host the U.S. Chess Championships.

Queen to San Diego? That's a move that benefits this region and chess lovers worldwide!

The U.S. Chess Championships took place in late November at the Hilton Torrey Pines. Beginning in 2006, the championships will make its permanent home in San Diego at the NTC Promenade, formerly known as the Naval Training Center.

Over nine days, 64 chess masters competed for the title of U.S. Grand Champion. Last year's prize fund exceeded a quarter-million dollars.

The NTC Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that is responsible for the renovation of the 26 historic buildings

that make up the old San Diego Naval Training Center. The foundation's vision for the center is a new arts, civic and cultural district that will be called the NTC Promenade. The center runs along Rosecrans Avenue.



PAM'S PERSPECTIVE

Simple Solutions For Making Housing Affordable

Housing prices in San County climbed 22 percent just in the past year, making the median price for a detached residence \$523,000. Expected prices for homes in the Third District communities of North County run anywhere from \$475,000 (Escondido) to \$800,000 (Encinitas) to \$935,000 (Carmel Valley) to \$1.4 million (Del Mar), reports the San Diego Association of Realtors.

With a limited supply of developal land in San Diego

County, homebuilders appear to have few options for reigning in prices.

They should look to green - as in the use of environmentally friendly products to reduce building costs. Not only does this wave of new products brings down the cost of building a home, they create secondary markets for recycled products.

Instead of installing wood floors that run as high as \$7.50 per square-foot, a developer can use Alloc boards, which are

made from wood pulp. Carpet runs anywhere between \$10 (nylon) and \$80 (wool) per square-yard. Carpet made of fibers from recycled plastic soda bottles is as attractive but begins at \$8 per square-yard.

Dual-pane windows reduce energy costs, in both the heat of summer and the cold of winter. New roofing materials insulate the structure and improve its ability to resist fire.

Energy STAR homes keep residences comfortable while reducing air leakage by 25 percent to 40 percent.

Cities as diverse as Austin, Texas; Scottsdale, Arizona; and San Francisco have endorsed green construction.

San Diego has its own triumph - the Ridgehaven building in Kearny Mesa. This 73,000-square-foot building appears identical to its neighbor. In 1996, it was completely renovated with cost-effective sustainable technologies. It now uses 65 percent less total energy than its nearly identical neighbor, yielding a saving of more than \$70,000 in annual utility costs. This equates to \$1



per square-foot in annual savings. Even more important, the occupants love its light and "healthy" atmosphere.

By encouraging builders to embrace these emerging technologies and products, San Diego can do its part in keeping home prices down while helping reduce its wastestream. It's a win-win proposal that will turn others green with envy.

WATER WISE

This month's water-saving tip: Reduce your water usage by soaking dirty pots overnight. Even better, learn the art of one-pot meals.

The staff of Supervisor Pam Slater-Price

- John Weil Chief of Staff
- Sachiko Kohatsu Land Use
- Danae Ramirez Health & Human Services
- Jim Gonsalves Housing
- Todd Voorhees Budget & Finance
- Joe Sheffo Public Safety
- Ann-Marie Jewel Scheduling
- Frances Porter Receptionist
- Dennis C. Lhota Newsletter

Contact us at: (619) 531-5533 or (800) 852-7334

Write us at: 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101

Website: www.pamslater.com